The question of providing a perennial source of water supply for the town should be investigated soon. The wells in the town all went dry in the hot season and the river-water became saltish.

A fire-engine should be provided for the municipality in order to prevent accidents like the recent out-break of fire in the market.

Government should grant the necessary help to the municipality in the matter of supply of electric lights. The town was infested with snakes, and occurrences of thefts were not also rare. The present street-lighting in the town was very poor.

Compulsory primary education and technical education should be introduced at least tentatively in the schools in municipal areas in the State. From there they could be extended to other parts of the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko, I listened with a good deal of interest and sympathy to the matters you referred to in connection with the life and activities of the Kottayam municipality. I shall await representations of the municipality in such directions as they may require the help or the guidance of the Government.

64. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. RAMASWAMI NADAR SIVASUBRAHMANYA NADAR (*Member, Agastiswaram taluk*) said that most of the cultivators of paddy and cocoanut in Nanjinad were small land-holders. They had no money to spend on new methods of agriculture. There were also vast areas of dry land in the Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks which, with a sufficient amount of capital, could be used for cultivating the very best varieties of cotton. Agricultural loans should be issued to the ryots for cultivating these lands and for improving the cultivation of paddy and cocoanut.

Artificial manures should be sold to ryots at reduced price or on credit.

More grazing grounds should be provided for sheep and cattle. The prosperity of agriculture depended in a large measure upon the improvement of the livestock and this in turn depended upon the existence of sufficient grazing grounds. The area of grazing grounds had dwindled of late by the sale of tank-beds and poramboke lands. The only places where good pasture could now be found were the hills. Restrictions on the grazing of goats on the hills should be removed.

The ryots of Agastiswaram should be permitted to collect timber from the Sirkar forests for making agricultural implements.

A reservoir should be constructed at Olakariur and the Althurayar should be extended in order to prevent scarcity of water consequent on the present condition of the Tovala channel.

The lower reaches of the N. P. Channel should be improved. The capacity of the main channel should be increased by widening it so as to make it possible to feed the branches with a sufficient supply of water.

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The Champakulam scheme kal opened by the people for a distance of about 8 miles had fallen into disrepair. Government had only made a very small contribution towards the construction of the kal. The kal should be restored and taken under departmental maintenance.

The notification regarding the supply of water to and assessment of the so-called "irregular conversions" should be cancelled. The distinction between 'regular' and 'irregular' conversions was a very recent one, and it had taken many land-holders by surprise. Under the new notification, water was to be supplied only for a single crop to these lands but the tax had to be paid for the whole year. This was very hard for the poor ryots.

The following works should be executed :—

(1) a road should be opened along one of the banks of the Karavilai branch of the Anantan kal ;

(2) the road between Tamarakulam and Parakkai should be improved and completed ;

(3) a road should be opened to Azhakappapuram from the Maharajapuram road, 1st mile, *via* Pottakulam ;

(4) the Anjugramam—Kanakappapuram road should be taken under departmental maintenance.

The Rajakamangalom *allom* should be improved at an early date as also the Thamarakolam *allom*. In regard to the latter, measures should be taken for preventing the percolation of fresh water and also for preventing breaches of the Pazhayar. In addition to these works, the present rate of *kudivaram* in respect of these *alloms* should be increased to two-fifths or made equal to that of the new *alloms*.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ramaswami Nadar Sivasubrahmonya Nadar, as you have included no less than 16 matters in your representation I trust you will very kindly excuse me from dealing here in detail with the lot. Time forbids it.

You refer to the subject of popularising agricultural loans. Let me assure you that people all over Travancore are well aware of the availability of agricultural loans judging from the number of applications.

You refer to goats. I have now given instructions to the Conservator of Forests to withdraw the prohibition.

You also touched upon the preparation and sale of scientific manures. Artificial manures I am glad are being very largely used in Travancore for intensive cultivation, and the Department of Agriculture is losing no time in bringing home the value of these manures to the agriculturists of Travancore.

You ask that the royts of Agastisvaram be permitted to collect timber from the Government forests. This is a subject which came before this Assembly in a previous session and the Government have made arrangements by which the Forest Department works down

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timber for agricultural implements from the Poigamala reserve. That being the case, there is no necessity to throw open reserves as suggested by you.

You also refer to the question of "regular and irregular conversions". I have not studied that evangelical problem as yet, but I shall give my attention to it as soon as possible.

65. Grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad and suggestions for remedying them.

MR. ERAVI PILLAI CHINNATHAMBIA PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that before the year 990 M. E. all tax on paddy lands was paid in kind. In that year one half of the tax was ordered to be paid in money. For purposes of commutation, one Nanjanad *Kotta* was taken as equivalent to 9 *Paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*, the cubic contents of a *para* being 640 cubic inches. At the Settlement of 1061, the cubic contents of a *para* were raised to 800 cubic inches so that mathematically 71/2 *paras* would make up 1 *kotta*. Government, however, retained the old equation of 1 *kotta*=9 *paras*, $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*. This meant a loss of about Rs. 2-11-15 per annum per *kotta* to the tax-payer. In 1082 the whole tax on paddy lands was made payable in money and then the *kotta* was taken as equivalent to 8 paras and $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies. This involved a further loss of Rs. 3-4-0 to the tax-payer. This injustice was brought to the notice of Government several times. A committee should be appointed to investigate the matter and to suggest measures for rectifying the mistakes which had been committed.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eravi Pillai Chinnathambia Pillai, I have listened and tried to follow all that you have said in respect of *Kottas, Marakals, padies, edangalis* and commutation rates. I find that the number of cubic inches to a *para* is exactly the same as the number of acres to a square mile, namely 640, and I find that the whole of your trouble and the cause of your complaint arises from the fact that long years ago one *para* was regarded as 640 cubic inches whereas today it is accepted as equivalent to 800 cubic inches and you pointed out that 160 cubic inches which constitutes the difference is purloined by the Government as excess taxation. I know there are many inequalities in taxation, particularly in South Travancore. These inequalities largely rose out of the change of taxation in kind to taxation in money. As I say, these inequalities have sooner or later to be corrected and I shall have the records on the matter placed before the authorities when the next re-settlement of Travancore is taken up, which I do not think is very far off. I shall send your statement to the Account Officer and have your calculations verified.

The member continued his representation and said that the existing tanks in Nanjanad should be improved and new tanks should be opened with a view to supplementing the supply of water from the Pechipara reservoir. It was a well known fact that the Pechipara reservoir was not able to supply water for the whole of Nanjanad. A great deal might be done to supplement the supply

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